

# COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS

## RESOLUTION No. 2021-07

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RATIFICATION BY THE STATE OF UTAH OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

**WHEREAS**, Utah has a long history of being a leader in equal political rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 1 of the Utah Constitution, adopted in 1895, states: “*The rights of citizens of the State of Utah to vote and hold office shall not be denied or abridged on account of sex. Both male and female citizens of this State shall enjoy equally all civil, political and religious rights and privileges*”; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah’s state constitution is an example to the nation that women everywhere should have equal political rights and enjoy equally with men all civil, political, and religious rights and privileges; and

**WHEREAS**, when Utah joined the nation in 1896 as the third state to include women’s voting rights in its constitution, suffragist Anna Howard Shaw expressed no surprise that the men of Utah had chosen to lead in this way, stating that “*Utah is . . . dear to the heart of every woman who loves liberty in these United States*”; and

**WHEREAS**, suffragist Alice Paul, in drafting the language of the Equal Rights Amendment, was advised by Utah Senator George Sutherland, who drew upon Article IV, Section 1 of the Utah Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 14, 1870, Seraph Young, the grandniece of Brigham Young, was the first woman to legally cast a vote in any election in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in Utah in 1896, Dr. Martha Hughes Cannon became the first woman in the United States to be elected as a state senator, and a statute of Dr. Cannon will soon be placed in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C., recognizing her as a pioneer for women’s equality in government; and

**WHEREAS**, Utah has had women lead in all three branches of government, including:

- Rebecca D. Lockhart, who served as speaker of the House of Representatives from 2010 to 2014;
- Christine M. Durham, who was appointed to the Utah Supreme Court in 1982 and served with distinction for 35 years, including ten years as chief justice;
- Olene S. Walker, who served as Utah’s lieutenant governor (1993-2003) and governor (2003-05); and

**WHEREAS**, other examples of the leadership of Utah women include:

- Four of Utah’s nine institutions of higher education currently have women presidents;
- A woman currently serving as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the latest of many women who have served in that role;

- 23% of Utah's current legislators are women, several of whom hold leadership positions;
- A majority of Utah's current state court judges are women;
- Jan Graham served as Utah's attorney general from 1993 to 2001;
- There are many women mayors, city and county council and commission members, and school board members throughout the state;
- In 2016, Christine M. Burckle began serving as the first female Brigadier General of the Utah National Guard; and
- In 2017, Rosie Rivera became the first female sheriff in Utah; and

**WHEREAS**, consequently, there is reason to celebrate the historic and ongoing accomplishments of women and their role in numerous positions of importance in the state, and to affirm the right of women to pursue opportunities to serve as elected, appointed, and hired leaders in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, Utahns value the continued participation of women in education, the military, public service, and other spheres of our society; and

**WHEREAS**, equality under the law is a fundamental value of the United States and the people of Utah; and

**WHEREAS**, although legislation and court decisions have increased women's access to education, employment, and public service, that same legislation can be repealed, and the United States Supreme Court may strike legislation or retreat from its own precedent, thereby eliminating or abridging legal rights currently enjoyed by women, girls, and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, inclusion of an equal rights amendment in the United States Constitution would require courts to apply the same strict level of scrutiny to government action based on sex as it applies to test the constitutionality of government action based on race, religion, or national origin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Rights Amendment, passed in 1972 by Congress, states:

*Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.*

*Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.*

*Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification; and*

**WHEREAS**, the city council (the "Council") of the city of Cottonwood Heights (the "City") met in regular session on 16 February 2021 to consider, among other things, enacting a resolution supporting ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment during the 2021 legislative session, whereupon Utah would join the 38 other states which already have ratified that amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration of the foregoing and the City's history of encouraging the leadership, occupational and other pursuits of its female residents, the Council has determined that so acting will be in the best interests of the City and its residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Cottonwood Heights city council that the Council hereby expresses its support for Utah's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution during the 2021 legislative session.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2021-07, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

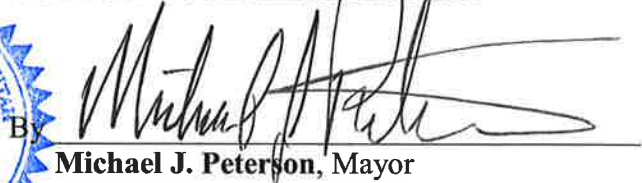
**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

**ATTEST:**

By   
Paula Melgar, Recorder



**COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL**

By   
Michael J. Peterson, Mayor

**VOTING:**

Michael J. Peterson	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>
Douglas Petersen	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>
J. Scott Bracken	Yea <input type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/> <i>RETAIN</i>
Tali C. Bruce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>
Christine Watson Mikell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nay <input type="checkbox"/>

**DEPOSITED** in the office of the City Recorder this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

**RECORDED** this 17 day of February 2021.